PAPERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BUBONIC PLAGUE:

CIRCULAR.

As there has been great diversity of practice in preparing the daily plague reports in the form prescribed in this office Circular No. 5206—13, dated 28th December 1898, the following instructions are issued for the guidance of Deputy Commissioners and Officers on Plague duty :—

1. The report should contain all cases reported at district head-quarters from midnight to midnight of the day previous to the writing of the report.

2. The date on the top of the report should be the date of the day to which the return refers, the date at the bottom left-hand corner should be the date on which the return is written.

3. The return should be, under no circumstances, allowed to miss the post each day; any failure in this leads to confusion and inaccuracy in the compilation of the Provincial return in this office, and if the failure occurs on the day the return of which should reach this office on Friday, it entails for that particular district inaccuracy in the weekly return which has to be submitted to the Government of India. In future any district responsible for this inaccuracy will be mentioned in the weekly report.

4. In the second column every village in which an indigenous case of plague has occurred during the two weeks previous to the writing of the return should be shown each day. If no report of Plague has been received for the day from any such village, nil report from that village should be shown in the return : the village should not be omitted unless it has been free from any indigenous case of plague for a full two weeks prior to the date of the return.

5. In the third column the villages in which indigenous cases are reported for the first time should be shown as "newly" infected, while those in which indigenous cases occur again after an interval of two weeks or more should be shown as "re-infected."

6. In the columns "Imported" and "Indigenous" only the cases and deaths the reports of which have been received in the District office on the date given at the top of the report, should be entered.

7. In the column of "Total from commencement" the total number of cases and deaths that have been reported up to date, including the day's figures given in the previous columns, should be entered against each town or village mentioned in the second column.

8. The column of remarks should be written up in accordance with the instructions contained in this office Circular No. 5774, dated 11th January 1899 (copy attached).

9. Sometimes considerable difference exists between figures furnished in the daily reports and those furnished in the weekly diaries of the District Plague Officer, as also between these figures and those in the Plague supplement of the diaries of Police Superintendents. These discrepancies should be avoided as far as possible and when they do occur should invariably be explained.

Notification No. 5884, dated Bangalore, 13th January 1899.

Under Regulation 19 of the Original City Regulations issued under the Epidemic Diseases Regulation, 1897, (Notification No. 9384-Mis. F.—21-96, dated 10th February 1898, as amended by Notification No. 5182—Pg. F. 21-96, dated 14th October 1898) quoted in the margin, the Plague Commissioner directs that the provisions of the said Regulation shall apply to the whole of the Mysore City from the 20th January 1899.

Notification No. 5182—Pg. F. 21-96, dated 14th October 1898.

* 19. In any locality to which this rule is applied by the Plague Commissioner, the President may by an order require that the certificate of a Medical Officer shall be obtained showing the cause of every death within two hours after such deaths.

After the issue of such an order, if a burial or cremation takes place without such a certificate having been obtained, the death may be presumed to have been due to plague, and the persons believed to have been in recent immediate contact with the corpse shall be liable to segregation and detention.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, Mysore City, is authorized to issue the necessary orders for enforcing the above Regulation from that date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S NOTES OF INSPECTION.

Mysore, 22nd January 1899.

Inspected Veeranna's lines. It appears there is only one sweeper. The number of sweepers should be increased. One conservancy cart may be assigned for the lines alone. The practice of throwing sweepings and rubbish in the main drains should be stopped at once. The ground between the lines should be levelled and the hollows covered. The houses without roof are overgrown with rank vegetation. This should be removed and the houses roofed with thatch or tiles and made habitable and rented to applicants, of whom I noticed some from the different Mohallas.

2. Lamp-posts may be put up at all the main corners. The Police on watch duty may be increased to 6 constables under a sergeant. Earthen ware pipes should be laid to drain the fountain-sides. People should be encouraged to occupy the lines on obtaining a health certificate from a Medical Officer.

3. Four temporary latrines may be put up in convenient localities and arrangements made for their conservancy.

4. It is desirable that all persons with their effects should be thoroughly disinfected before admission to the lines. Two ordinary boilers may be set up, one under a Brahmin and the other under a Lingayat waterman, for heating water for bathing the applicants, and two boilers for steaming and disinfecting their clothes.

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE RAN[illegible] MEMORIAL HALL, MYSORE, AT 4 P.M. ON[illegible] 21ST JANUARY 1899

The Plague Commissioner in Mysore in the chair.

[illegible] Deputy Commissioner, the Chief Plague Officer, the Health Officer, the Vice-President of the [illegible]nicipality, the Ward Civil and Medical Officers, the Superintendent of Police, &c., were present.

Ward arrangement.

There has been a considerable rise in plague cases in the Northern Ward. The work of [illegible]; passes also has increased. The members present think that an Assistant Civil and Medical [illegible]hould be appointed to assist the Ward Officer, No. 1 Ward.

[illegible]ek Abdulla to be Assistant Ward Officer with an allowance of Rs. 50. 1st Class Hospital [illegible]t Darashah will be Assistant Medical Officer. Miss Paul to be Lady Hospital Assistant [illegible]d No. I, assited by two nurses.

[illegible]. Ananda Rau is in charge of Ward No. II with Mr. Rangasami Pille as Medical Officer, [illegible] by two nurses.

[illegible]r. Zahiruddin Meccai is Ward Officer for Ward No. III, with Mr. Gnanapriam Pille as Medical [illegible], assisted by one nurse.

Supervisors.

The Chief Plague Officer says that Supervisors for all the 100 blocks have been appointed [illegible]ld to report themselves to the Ward Officers, and he expects the record to be completed by the [illegible] the month. The form of Register is the same as that adopted in Bangalore.

Record of Plague deaths and total mortality.

[illegible]. There are fifteen burial and burning grounds and at 11 of these one literate constable assist- [illegible] two watchmen has been posted. The other 4 are not now watched. It is proposed to effect [illegible]tions in the existing staff and assign a constable or watchman to each of these four. Two [illegible]: Sergeants whose work is overlooked by an Inspector supervise the work of the constables and [illegible]men. The present arrangement is that at 6 P. M. every evening the constable brings to the [illegible]h Office a slip in the form prescribed showing the burials and cremations for the day with the [illegible]icates of death covering the cor[illegible]. These are checked with the counterfoils of certificates of [illegible]s issued by the different Medical [illegible]cers appointed for the purpose, and published next morning. [illegible]is total is shown also the mortal[illegible]as given in the Erangere Camp Superintendent's report for [illegible]lay. There are now 15 such Medical Officers including 3 Lady Doctors.

System of passes and observation notices.

4. From about the middle of December there has been a tendency for people to move out of [illegible]ore. System of passes and observation notices was adopted in No. I Ward on 15th December, [illegible] in other Wards from the 15th of January. Nine road outposts have been established manned [illegible]4 constables under a Sergeant each. No pass issued without examination of applicants by the [illegible]rd Medical Officer. The applicants are not disinfected. At the Railway Station there are 8 Con- [illegible]bles, one Sergeant and one Head Constable for checking passengers coming into and leaving Mysore. [illegible]ere is an Inspecting Medical Officer and a Lady Apothecary at the Railway Station.

Disinfector.

5. The disinfecting machine has been put up but the boiler has not been received. The disin- [illegible]tion shed is in course of construction within the Railway premises.

Watching infected houses.

6. The infected houses are being watched by a Policeman under the new regulation, but the [illegible]atch is admittedly defective and may as well be dispensed with.

Disinfection.

7. Eighty men are now employed on disinfection work, working under 8 Inspectors, one Assistant [illegible]perintendent and a Superintendent. They do on an average 16 houses a day. The work seems [illegible]tterly satisfactorily done.

Removing unsanitary houses.

8. The same establishment will be employed on removing insanitary buildings condemned by [illegible]he Chief Plague Officer or the Health Officer under Regulation 6 A, page 25 of the Compilation.

Conservancy.

9. The conservancy of the City requires looking into. The staff of sweepers and scavengers should be strengthened to enable the President to cope with the extra work imposed by the Plague. The Government have lately sanctioned 15 carts in addition to the existing number.

Engineering Staff.

10. The Assistant Engineer with two Sub-Overseers lately transferred to Mysore will, in addition to carrying out improvements and additions to the Erangere Camp Hospital, help the Plague Officers in the improvements indicated in para 8.

General Improvements.

11. With the 1,17,000 Rs. sanctioned by Government improvements were started in the beginning of August 1898. 554 houses, particularly in the congested localities of Beste[illegible]bargere and Mochighaut, have been acquired and demolished at a cost of Rs. 55,304-15-5. The [illegible] of lanes opened out is 3⅛ miles.

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Exodus.

12. The number of persons that have left Mysore up to date under passes is 4,791. The number of houses deserted or evacuated is 516 upto 20th January. The total number of houses in the City is 15,877.

Inoculation.

13. The total number of inoculations up to 20th January is 28,145, of whom 3,169 up to 6th January 1899 are Muhammadans. The average weekly inoculations latterly are from 500 to 800.

Protection of the Palace.

14. I regret that the Palace Controller has not been able to attend the meeting to advise the Plague authorities as to what is being done for the protection of the Palace. I understand that the Police Inspector on plague duty in the City sends a copy of plague returns to the Controller This is utterly insufficient to protect the Palace. I consider a separate Civil and Medical Officer should be appointed for the Palace to examine Palace servants and workmen, and send a report to the Chief Plague Officer and Health Officer. There should be a strict watch maintained on all Palace servants living outside the Palace precincts, and none should be admitted into the premises unless supplied with a pass from the Ward Officer of their place of residence. The workmen employed on Palace restoration being foreigners may be accommodated in separate sheds to be built for them somewhere behind Veerannah's lines.

15. The Deputy Commissioner says that building materials valued at Rs. 5,000 are available at the Forest Depots. Free issues to the value of Rs. 395-10-9 have been made up to date and Rs. 1,147-2-4 worth on payment.

Proceedings of a Special Meeting convened for the purpose of concerning measures for the protection of the Palace, Mysore, dated 25th January 1899

Present.

The Plague Commissioner in Mysore in the chair.
The Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioner of Mysore.
The Palace Controller.
The Durbar Bakshi.
The Chief Plague Officer, Mysore.
The Health Officer and
The Ward Civil and Medical Officers.

The Palace Controller and the Durbar Bakshi say that it has been decided to isolate all the Palace servants who do not live on the premises, and that the Chetnahalli Road Camp has been placed at their service by the Deputy Commissioner. When the Palace servants and their families are so isolated, it is proposed that they should be examined every morning by a Medical Officer and the fact of their being free from disease noted on a ticket to be issued to each man.

2. A Civil Officer will be appointed by the Deputy Commissioner to be posted at the Palace, who will see that none without the ticket above mentioned are allowed to go into or remain in the Palace.

3. The Palace servants will further be supplied with a suit of clothes to be worn when they enter the precincts, the clothes worn by them outside being left at the gate. They will further wash their feet in a disinfectant solution every time they enter the Palace.

4. The Palace Controller has agreed to have a complete list prepared of all Palace servants showing where they live, with a view to enable the plague authorities to give information of any cases of sickness in their neighbourhood. This precaution is to be taken until the servants and their families are finally removed to camp.

5. The Palace Controller has agreed to send the address of each Palace servant to the Ward Officer, through the Chief Plague Officer, and when such addresses are received, the Ward Officer will take immediate steps to mark the house of the Palace servant with a big A in red paint to distinguish the house.

6. The Palace Barr, the Valekars, Bestars, Rachevars and the Body Guard will be similarly camped out.

7. The Senior Surgeon will be requested to appoint a Medical Officer to be attached to the Palace exclusively for Plague work

8. The Chief Plague Officer will, either directly or through the President, place himself in communication with the Executive Engineer in charge of the Palace restoration works, and adopt measures for the daily examination of the workmen, accommodation in a separate camp being provided for such of the workmen as are willing to evacuate their houses in the town and particularly for those that have no fixed habitation in the City.

Extract from the Diary of the District Plague Officer, Bangalore, for week ending Friday 20th January 1899.

* * * * * * *

The town of Magadi is practically vacated with the exception of 20 houses or so out of a total of 800. It is however in a filthy condition, and the streets do not appear to have been swept since it was evacuated. It is true that the sweepers have run away but they have done this everywhere but have nevertheless been brought back somehow or other. This I pointed out to the Amildar.

The roofs have been taken off infected houses, but I have ordered them to be taken off all the houses and notices affixed to the effect that no one will be allowed to re-enter until disinfection has taken place.

The komties have built themselves more or less pucka houses a mile from the town as they appear to think that they will have to camp out for a year. Their surroundings were very untidy, in fact everywhere the conservancy of Magadi appears to have been neglected.

The Plague Inspector seems to have been neglecting his duties. I shall look into his case, and if I find it is so will appoint some one else in his place.

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Camp Magadi, Friday 20th-- * * * *

The state of the sanitation is simply appalling, and what it must be like when the place is full of people is horrible to think of.

The sanctioned staff of sweepers (10) is quite insufficient.

Magadi is composed of four hamlets as it were, Magadi, Hospet, Tirumali and Kumbergodi, and it is curious to note that the plague has only broken out in Magadi itself and not in the other three places.

I don't know how to account for this, unless it is owing to the highly insanitary condition of the backyards of the Brahmin and Komti houses in Magadi itself. The other hamlets are occupied more by agricultural classes, who to a certain extent remove this manure themselves; this the other people don't do, and unless it is removed for them it accumulates.

I think the plague is practically at an end here now as there have been only 2 cases a day for the last 2 or 3 days, there is however lot of work for the local authorities to do in getting the place into ship-shape order.

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Extract from the Diary of the District Plague Officer, Bangalore district, for week ending Friday 27th January 1899.

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Kankanhalli Amildar reports that he has vacated the whole of Harohalli and that plague is decreasing there. The rest of the taluk including the head-quarters is free from plague.

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Abstract from the Diary of the Chief Plague Officer, Bangalore City, dated 20th January 1899.

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I was told by Municipal Commissioner Muniappa that there was a case of plague yesterday in Nagarathpetta within the limits of No. III Ward. I went to No. III Ward and enquired of the case. The Ward clerk told me no plague case had occurred and the death register showed deceased by name Puttaswami had died of diarrhœa I however was not satisfied and drove to the house of the deceased and enquired of the deceased's neighbours. One of them, an uncle of the deceased, told me that the boy's brothers and mother were living in Nainappa Chettypaliam, a village in Begur hobli, that two brothers had died of plague there, the one on the 19th and the other on the 18th, that the deceased had visited the Paliam returning on Saturday or Sunday last, and that he was taken ill on Tuesday and died yesterday 19th.

In order to verify this statement I examined the Supervisor and his block book. The Supervisor stated the boy had been living in the house since the day of the census. There was no entry showing sickness, but there was an entry of the death.

Not being satisfied I went to the Nianappa Chettypaliam to verify the uncle's statement, and there I found that what he said was perfectly true; the death of the deceased's two brothers from plague, and the visit of the deceased to the village were facts, and at the time of my visit the mother was also suffering from plague.

An aunt of the deceased told me that Puttasami had come to the village on Thursday, stopped Friday and returned to Bangalore Saturday or Sunday.

It seems that the family left Bangalore at the time of the plague scare and settled in the village but were, by means of a foot-path running by the side of the Lal-Bagh, in daily communication with the rest of their community in Bangalore.

On my return I questioned the Ward Officer and Ward Medical Officer about the case, but their answers were not satisfactory.

The Ward Officer in his diary of 19th mentioned the death of Puttasami as due to fever. The Ward Medical Officer gave the cause of death as diarrhœa. The grandmother of the deceased who had been living in Bangalore had left it three days before, but her absence had not been noticed by the Supervisor, nor had Puttasami's frequent absence been noticed by him. I consider the whole affair most discreditable to the Ward Officer, Ward Medical Officer and Supervisor and their ignorance of the cause of death is the more inexplicable in that the case was the talk of the locality.

I have ordered the immediate disinfection of the house and those adjoining and the sending of the contacts to camp and their subsequent prosecution.

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Extract from the Diary of the additional Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bangalore district, for the week ending the 21st January 1899.

* * * * * * *

21st Saturday—The town of Tyamagondlu—Houses 900 with 4,000 population, bears a deserted look. Every house has been closed. I believe the Townspeople very readily listened to the advice of the Amildar and vacated the town in 2 days. Within a radious of 3 miles of the town one will see rows of huts and camps. The Komati camp is of all the best. It is divided into two blocks consisting of 70 houses—situated on an elevated ground about 1½ miles distant from the town, the camp is free from all contamination. Wells have been sunk, and excellent water tapped within easy depths. The camp has been sufficiently victualled. A small shop with ordinary provisions has been opened at the outskirts of the camp to enable outsiders to purchase what they want.

The Amildar has kindly provided the camp with some lanterns and a sweeper to look after the conservancy.

There was a case of plague in the Lingayat camp which is far away from the Komatis. The party attacked was a dumb woman. She has been segregated and is being treated with Tanjore pills.

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Extract from the Diary of the Chief Plague Officer, Bangalore City, dated 22nd January 1899.

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Returned home at 12-30 when I got a letter from No. II Sub-Ward that two cases of plague of which one had proved fattal, occurred this morning at Chamarajpet, 4th Main Road. Did office work in the afternoon at home, left for Chamarajpet at 6 P. M., met the Ward Officer and with him went to the affected house for enquiry. The inmates who were all uninoculated numbering five were taken to the Camp. There were on the night of the census 14 people living in a small miserable low-situated house. Eight out of these left subsequently and are now living in Cubbonpetta, No. III Ward. Dead rats were subsequently found in the house. On this account the house-owner put up a shed behind his house, and was living in it for some days. He returned inside the house again a few days ago and the inmates caught the infection The supervisor did not report until after death, and that too after his attention was drawn by the Police. He is a schoolmaster lent for plague duty. Chamarajapetta had a clean bill of health since the 30th of last month, and the occurrence of these cases after such an interval is very much to be regretted. The question is where the rats could have got infected, whether they got infected in the house itself and died there, or whether they brought the infection from some other part of the town. I do not think rats travel any distance unless they be starving; the owner of the house, although a Devangar by caste, is a Dasari and goes about the town begging. It is said that he picked up a lot of grain from Taragpetta when the mandis there were being cleaned. According to Hankin grains do not retain infection for any length of time, but possibly the rats got it from the picked grain, supposing it was infected, and kept up the infection in this house. I give the theory for what it is worth. The facts are as stated above. One of the attacked boys was also serving in a grain shop situated near the Police Station in Chamarajpetta.

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Diary of Mr. T. Bava Rao, in charge of the Mysore District Plague office, for 24th January 1899

In the morning inspected in company with the Mysore Taluk Amildar, Kumbarkoppal, a village about 3 miles from Mysore. It is infected, and the villagers are evacuating it; about 40 families have already camped out, and the rest are putting up sheds outside the village. The villagers, after the recent visit of the Plague Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, are reasonable on the whole, and are willing to obey the regulations.

2. I went through the lanes of the village and inspected the patients. The village is fairly clean. I examined 3 sick cases who seemed to be improving and who had no characteristic plague symptoms, bubos, injected eyes, or furred tongue.

3. The mortuary register was not written up to date, and the entries therein were not chronological. It is very important that this register should be very systematically kept. The Amildar was requested to see to it

4. No arrangements for disinfection of infected houses had been made. A disinfection staff was ordered to be entertained without delay under a competent Inspector, as per Deputy Commissioner's orders and the systematic disinfection of houses started.

5. The ryots want to stall their cattle in the village itself, but this will entail the entering into infected houses and in great measure nullify the beneficial effects of camping out. The cattle may be kept in open outside or in the tope with a fence all round.

6. The Patel informed us that dead rats were found in Padavarhalli which is within the city limits. I have informed this to the Chief Plague Officer.

7. The Amildar says that Kumbarkoppal is the only village in the taluk known to be infected. But it is probable that other villages are also infected; and the Amildar should arrange through the local Police and Revenue officers for a regular patrol of the rural tracts for obtaining the earliest possible intimation of the occurrence of plague. A more systematic examination of mortuary returns to be received daily from the villages is, I think, called for, and orders may be issued to the Amildar of this taluk and other affected taluks in this matter.

* *

MEMO.

As personally instructed by the Deputy Commissioner, I have this day inspected the belt of the unprotected villages of the Channarayapatna taluk bordering on the Krishnarajpete taluk. They are 12 from Channarayapatna to Dinka. The statement below shows at one glance their sanitary condition, the arrangements existing in them to meet plague, and whether the prescribed registers are maintained, &c.

Serial No.	Name of village.	Sanitary condition.	Whether the register of arrivals from infected parts is maintained.	Whether sheds have been built.	Whether Plague Commissioner's leaflets about plague is issued and understood.
1	Cholenahalli ...	... Clean, but manure and other pits not closed.	Yes	No	No
2	Palasamudra ...	Ditto	No	do	do
3	Hiribellatti ...	... Dirty-pits not closed	Yes	do	Issued but not understood
4	Chikabellatti ...	... Clean, but manure and other pits not closed.	No	do	No
5	Waddarahalli ...	... Dirty, the manure and other pits not closed.	Yes	do	do
6	Suganahall ...	... Ditto	Do	do	Issued but not understood.
7	Gurugamahalli ...	... Clean and pits closed	Do	do	No
8	Kuruba ahosahalli	... Clean, but manure and other pits not closed.	Do	do	do
9	Alladahalli ...	... Ditto	Do	do	do
10	Dammaningala ...	... Ditto	Do	do	do
11	Hominehalli ...	... Clean and pits closed	Do	do	do
12	Dinka ...	... Clean, but manure and other pits not closed.	Do	do	Issued but not understood.

The patels of these villages do not know the use of the registers given them. They had bundled them up along with other registers and papers and it was with great difficulty that they were picked up for my inspection. The patels have no idea of what plague is and what should be done to prevent its spread should it ever break out; much less do they know what measures should be adopted to isolate cases of plague. Most of them have not been supplied with the Plague Commissioner's useful leaflets about the nature of plague and the action to be taken on its appearance; and the few that have got them have not endeavoured to understand their contents. I have explained to them in detail what plague is, what should be done, when it breaks out, and what measures should be adopted to arrest its spread. But I am afraid they are likely to consign my instructions to oblivion if their memory is not refreshed constantly by subordinate Police and Revenue officials, who do not seem to realize their responsibility in this important matter. Repeated warnings are also necessary to the patels to keep always their villages clean and their surroundings healthy.

I have given the Inspector, who was with me during the time of my inspection, the necessary instructions on the subject.

As plague has made its appearance in Mysore I have also instructed the patels to maintain strict watch over arrivals from that place, and have also explained to such of the inhabitants of the above mentioned villages as I can find, the danger they would expose themselves to by going to Mysore at this time.

(Sd.) P. NANJUNDA NAIDU,
Offg. Asst. Supdt. of Police,
Hassan District.

Dated 5th January 1899.

The conduct of the Amildar of Channarayapatna in neglecting to see that all his patels knew and understood the contents of the plague leaflets issued a year ago seems to need severe notice.

(Intd.) R. B. P.

I. Extract from the supplement to the Diary of the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Tumkur district, for the week ending 31st December 1898.

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Took a census of the village of Baichapur and compared it with the Khaneshumari accounts of the shanbhog. Found that three families were absent. Had them traced out and made arrangements for their observation outside the respective villages in which they were found

II. Extract from the Diary of the Chief Plague Officer, Bangalore City, dated 21st January 1899.

" * * * * * *

To Guttahalli where two cases were reported yesterday, both Muhammadan females. One had been to Cantonment with her husband and stayed away there for two days. This was not reported by the supervisor."